

Trade Notes...

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USDA Awards \$10 Million Under 2004 Emerging Markets Program

Eighty-six agricultural trade-building projects received a total of \$10 million in funding from the 2004 Emerging Markets Program. The recipients included universities, federal agencies, trade groups and nonprofit organizations. Projects are being carried out in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, South America and the Caribbean.

The program supports generic promotion and distribution of U.S. agricultural products, trade missions and research on new markets, and it encourages free trade policies. It also sponsors seminars and training so potential buyers in emerging economies can profitably use U.S. agricultural goods. All applications undergo a competitive review process. Qualification requirements include cost sharing and justification for federal funding. Other review factors include the quality of the proposal, likely success of intended approach in target markets, and knowledge of the market and of similar activities in the region. For information on the Emerging Markets Program, including a list of the fiscal 2004 projects, call: Tel.: (202) 720-4327; or go to Web site: www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em-markets/em-markets.html

USDA Provides \$50 Million in Assistance Under McGovern-Dole Program

USDA announced \$50 million in foreign assistance under fiscal 2004 funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. This assistance includes donations for 13 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, and is feeding nearly 2 million children. The program helps support education, child development and food security in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. It provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects. This food for education assistance includes a variety of commodities purchased on the U.S. market and donated by USDA. Last year, commodities went to private voluntary organizations, the United Nations' World Food Program and one foreign government.

USDA also provides international food assistance through Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 and through the Food for Progress program. USDA's food for education programs have provided nutritious school meals to some 11 million children in developing countries since 2001.

More information on the program is available at Web site: www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/FoodAid/FFE/FFE.html